

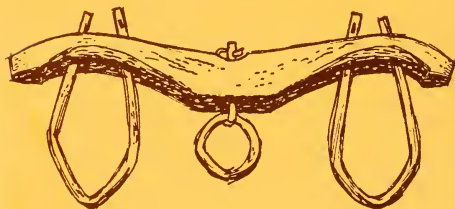
Lincolniana Miscellany

by Dick Squire

1954




LINCOLN ROOM
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY



MEMORIAL
the Class of 1901

founded by
HARLAN HOYT HORNER
and
HENRIETTA CALHOUN HORNER





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Lincolniana Miscellany

. . . being unrelated dissertations
on wartime literature and a man named Herndon,
with some bibliographical notes added.

by Dick Squire

*The Lincoln Press
Bedford, Ohio*

1954

COPYRIGHT, 1954

BY RICHARD J. SQUIRE



Portions of this pamphlet are reprinted by permission of
W. B. Thorsen, editor and publisher of
AMATEUR BOOK COLLECTOR
(1822 School Street, Chicago 13, Illinois)

Lincolniana for the Armed Services



REPRINTED FROM *LINCOLNIANA NUMBER TWO*
IN *AMATEUR BOOK COLLECTOR* FOR APRIL, 1953

During the late great war, a wide variety of books was made available without charge to members of the armed services overseas through a series of cheap, paper covered throw-away editions. These books apparently have not aroused much interest in bookmen yet, but undoubtedly they will be sought after eagerly by collectors sometime in the future.

On the inside front cover of each volume is the following explanatory note:

"This book is published by Editions for the Armed Services, Inc., a non-profit organization established by the Council on Books on Wartime, which is made up of American publishers of General (Trade) books, librarians, and booksellers. It is intended for exclusive distribution to members of the American Armed Forces and is not to be resold or made available to civilians. In this way the best books of the present and the past are supplied to members of our Armed Forces in

Lincolniana for the Armed Services

small, convenient, and economical form. New titles will be issued regularly."

Of the hundreds of titles published, at least two were Lincoln items: *Myths After Lincoln*, by Lloyd Lewis, and a small volume of *The Selected Writings of Abraham Lincoln*. A semi-Lincoln book in this series is Carl Sandburg's *Storm Over the Land*. These three are the only titles of the Armed Services editions that I have seen which could be classified as Lincolniana.

They were printed in large numbers, but since most of them were sent overseas and ultimately discarded, they are rather scarce.

Another book which was not generally available to collectors is a special edition of Lord Charnwood's *Abraham Lincoln*, issued by the Red Cross. This is identical to the Pocket Books edition, except for special imprints on the covers and title page. "Books, Inc." is substituted for "Pocket Books, Inc." in the publisher's imprint. A paragraph on the back cover explains that it is a "Special edition for free distribution to members of the Armed Services by the American Red Cross."

All of the above editions are undated. I first saw them in 1944 and 1945, on Saipan and Okinawa.

Lincolniana for the Armed Services

Another book in a parallel category is the Infantry Journal edition of *Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column*, by George Fort Milton, dated 1943. This is a paper covered book in the Fighting Forces Series.

A search through the bibliography which appears periodically in *Lincoln Lore* revealed only one of the five titles (*The Selected Writings*) — an indication that many collectors have not yet become acquainted with the Lincoln books that were published for our armed services in wartime.

A Bibliography

of Lincolniana for the Armed Services



Lloyd Lewis—Myths After Lincoln

Title page arranged in two columns. First column:

Published by arrangement with / Harcourt Brace and Company / New York / Copyright, 1929 / By Harcourt, Brace and Company / Manufactured in the United States of America

Second Column:

Myths after / Lincoln / By Lloyd Lewis / With a Special Introduction by / Carl Sandburg / Editions for the Armed Services Inc / A Non-profit Organization Established by / The Council on Books in Wartime. New York

1945? Size $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$, 416 pp. Paper covers. No. 771 of Armed Services Editions.

Selected Writings

The Selected Writings of / Abraham / Lincoln / Armed Services Editions, Inc. / A Non-profit Organization Sponsored by / The Council on Books in Wartime, New York

1945? Size $3\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$, 159 pp. Paper covers. No. F-153 of Armed Services Editions.

A Bibliography

Carl Sandburg—Storm Over the Land

Title page arranged in two columns. First column:

Published by arrangement with / Harcourt Brace and Company / New York, N. Y. / All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form / Copyright, 1939, 1942, by / Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc.

Second Column:

Storm Over / the Land / A Profile of the Civil War / Taken Mainly From / Abraham Lincoln: The War Years / By Carl Sandburg / Armed Services Editions / Council on Books in Wartime, Inc. / New York

1944 ? Size $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$, 350 pp. Paper covers. No. A-27 of Armed Services Editions.

George Fort Milton—Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column

Abraham Lincoln / and / The Fifth Column / By / George Fort Milton / Washington / The Infantry Journal / 1943

Size $7 \times 4\frac{3}{8}$, 247 pp. Paper covers.

Lord Charnwood—Abraham Lincoln

Abraham / Lincoln / By / Godfrey Rathbone Benson / (Lord Charnwood) / This special edition is published / especially for / The American Red Cross / By / Books, Inc. / New York, N. Y.

1944? Size $6\frac{3}{8} \times 4$, 495 pp. Paper covers. Pocket Books edition with special imprints and no advertising pages.

Herndon —

Lincoln's Boswell?



REPRINTED FROM *LINCOLNIANA* NUMBER SIX
IN *AMATEUR BOOK COLLECTOR* FOR NOVEMBER, 1953

A figure very prominent in Lincoln literature, and one of the many who have attained immortal fame through association with Abraham Lincoln, is that of William H. Herndon (1818-1891).

Billy Herndon was Mr. Lincoln's law partner for sixteen years. After the assassination in 1865 he was determined to become Lincoln's Boswell. He devoted most of the remainder of his life to the task—tirelessly and persistently interviewing and corresponding with anyone and everyone he could find who had known Lincoln. He wrote out every detail that he could remember about his hero — how he looked, how he talked and walked—his actions—his habits—everything that he had observed about the man. He was going to supply the waiting world with the final and complete life of Abraham Lincoln, presenting, for the first time, the man as he actually was.

In 1889, after many years of false starts, delays and detours, his book finally appeared, with Jesse W. Weik (1857-1930) as a co-author. By this time Herndon was a prematurely old man, trying to scratch a living out of his Illinois farm. The mechanical and mental effort necessary to transform his notes and his thoughts into a finished manuscript had appeared insurmountable to the aging lawyer-farmer. The younger, enthusiastic Weik collaborated with him, and *Herndon's Lincoln, The True Story of a Great Life* emerged.

The book started a hurricane of controversy over several moot points in the Lincoln story, which continues to blow even today. The hoped-for royalties failed to materialize, however, due mainly to the untimely bankruptcy of the publishers. A second printing by the reorganized publishing house fared little better, and old Bill died soon after, broke and disappointed.

He would be gratified to know that today, 64 years after his book was first published, an edition of the work is still in print. During all of these years, *Herndon's Lincoln* has experienced a slow but steady sale, through several editions.

As a biographer, Herndon had many faults and as many merits. While he was reporting what he had observed personally, he was unexcelled. In his writings can be found what is perhaps the best physical description of Lincoln ever penned.

As an interpreter of the observations of others he was less reliable. When he tried to explain the mechanics of Lincoln's mind and describe his thoughts, he was often totally lost, without knowing he was lost. He had supreme confidence in his own intuitive powers — which his readers should not share.

Herndon has been called a mythmaker, a humanizer, a debunker, a great biographer, and a lot of other things — not all complimentary and frequently downright insulting. He started several myths about his old partner which seem to have no foundation in fact but which have been almost universally accepted as parts of the Lincoln legend.

Many deficiencies have been exposed in *Herndon's Lincoln* — more than in most important biographies. However, it is doubtful whether any other biography has ever been subjected to such minute and merciless scrutiny as has this one, by a long succession of scholarly and exacting critics.

The first edition of *Herndon's Lincoln* is scarce, but is obtainable. A recent booklist offered the three-volume set for fifty dollars. The cheapest, most recent editions are the best, though, for the reader. The one volume dollar edition, available in most book stores, has an introduction by Paul M. Angle, which should be read both before and after reading the body of the book. Mr. Angle tells the reader what portions of the work can be accepted at face value, and what should be

Herndon

treated with scepticism. With an impressive background of Lincolnian research, Angle is well qualified for the job.

The Lincoln collector will find an abundance of material about William Herndon on his shelves. I have three books before me, all devoted to the great man and his humble biographer. They are *Lincoln and Herndon* (1910) by Joseph Fort Newton, *The Hidden Lincoln, From the Letters and Papers of William H. Herndon* (1938) edited by Emanuel Hertz, and *Lincoln's Herndon* (1948) by David Donald. Periodicals such as "Lincoln Lore", "Lincoln Herald" and "Abraham Lincoln Quarterly" have presented many essays with Herndon as the central subject. For a detailed account of the fascinating story behind *Herndon's Lincoln*, chapter five of *Portrait for Posterity* (1947) by Benjamin P. Thomas is unexcelled.

There has been scarcely a Lincoln book written during the present century that hasn't felt the influence of William H. Herndon.

A Checklist of Herndon's Lincoln—1889-1954



The following is a list of different editions and printings of the life of Lincoln written by William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik, and published under various titles. It was prepared from information appearing in the weekly *Lincoln Lore*, edited by Louis A. Warren, in *Lincoln Bibliography*, by Jay Monaghan, and in *Lincoln's Herndon*, by David Donald, and from copies of *Herndon's Lincoln* in the writer's collection. The extent of the list sustains the contention that no other Lincoln biography has enjoyed such an enduring popularity as has this one.

Three volumes:

(First edition) Herndon's Lincoln, The True Story of a Great Life. Belford, Clarke & Company. 1889.

Also by Brentano's, London. 1889.

Same title by Belford-Clarke Co. 1890.

Two volumes:

Abraham Lincoln, The True Story of a Great Life. Introduction by Horace White. D. Appleton & Co. 1892.

Published in London by Sampson, Law & Co. 1892.

Succeeding printings dated 1893, 1895, 1896, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1908, 1909, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1920 1923, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1930.

Three volumes:

Herndon's Lincoln, The True Story of a Great Life. Herndon's Lincoln Publishing Co. 1921. Succeeding printings dated 1922, 1923, 1924.

One volume:

Herndon's Life of Lincoln. Introduction and notes by Paul M. Angle. Albert & Charles Boni. 1930. Later printing dated 1936.

Herndon's Life of Lincoln. Introduction and notes by Paul M. Angle. World Publishing Co. 1942. Succeeding printings dated 1943, 1949, 1952.



Thus . . . Abraham Lincoln. He was not a pretty man by any means, nor was he an ugly one; he was a homely man, careless of his looks, plain-looking and plain-acting. He had no pomp, display or dignity, so-called. He appeared simple in his carriage and bearing. He was a sad-looking man; his melancholy dripped from him as he walked.

— *Herndon*



Lincolniana Miscellany was
hand set by the author
in 10 point Nicolas Cochin ATF foundry type.
Printed on a Craftsman press
with Kluge automatic feeder,
on Mountie Offset paper,
in an edition of five hundred copies.

Bedford, Ohio

January, 1954

d s







*Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained
from the publishers*

THE LINCOLN PRESS

451 Broadway . . . Bedford, Ohio

for 50 cents each, postpaid